(c) One Project - UPI covering 22 piped water supply schemes for 706 vissages in 3 districts with Dutch assistance was completed in 1986. Four more Projects with Dutch assistance are under implementation with completion dates for two in March 1992 and the remaining two in April, 1992 and June 1992.

(d) The number of villages etc. likely to be covered in the four ongoing projects in Uttar Pradesh are as under:

Quality of Electronic Goods

*610. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to upgrade the quality of electronic goods produced in the country to compete in the International marekt; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Electronics has been implementing a quality infrastructure programme called the Standardisation, Testing & Quality Control (STQC) programme to promote the quality of electronic goods. The prime objectives of the STQC are to asist the industries in quality improvement of indigenous electronic products and thereby enhance their market acceptablity at domestic and international levels.

The STQC activities are channelised into the following areas:-

i) Standardisation of electronic products and harmonisation of existing standards with international standards.

ii) Implementation of National/International Certification Schemes in the area of electronics covering the aspects of performance, safety and Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)/Electromagnetic Compatability (EMC).

iii) Provide comprehensive test and calibration services covering all product areas through a netwrok of laborataries spread all over the country.

iv) Provide product development assistance. R & D and consultancy services on quality management and software development.

(v) Provide training in specialised areas related to quality and reliability.

vi) Create quality awareness among industrties and users through seminars/symposia.

Use of Atomic Energy in Agriculture

611. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to statate:

(a) whether the atomic energy is used in the field of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALAVA): (a) Nuclear energy in the form of Radiations and Radioisotopes is being widely used in agricultural research and development.

(b) The main applications in agriculture are for:

I. Inducing genetic variability in crop plants to develop improved varieties for higher yield, resistance to biotic and obiotic stresses, variability in crop duration, nutritional quality and adaption (Photoperiod);

II. Improving fertiliser use efficiency (Nitrogen and Phosphorus) for different soil types and to assess availability of micronutrients for crops and their movement in soil profiles;